CASE STUDY – **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION**

whalebone

Set-Up Within One Hour:

College of Polytechnics Jihlava Protects All Its Students and Employees

V Š P J

Vysoká škola polytechnická Jihlava

"Whalebone serves as a preventive additional layer of security – so far, we have not been under a targeted attack, but it is only a matter of time."

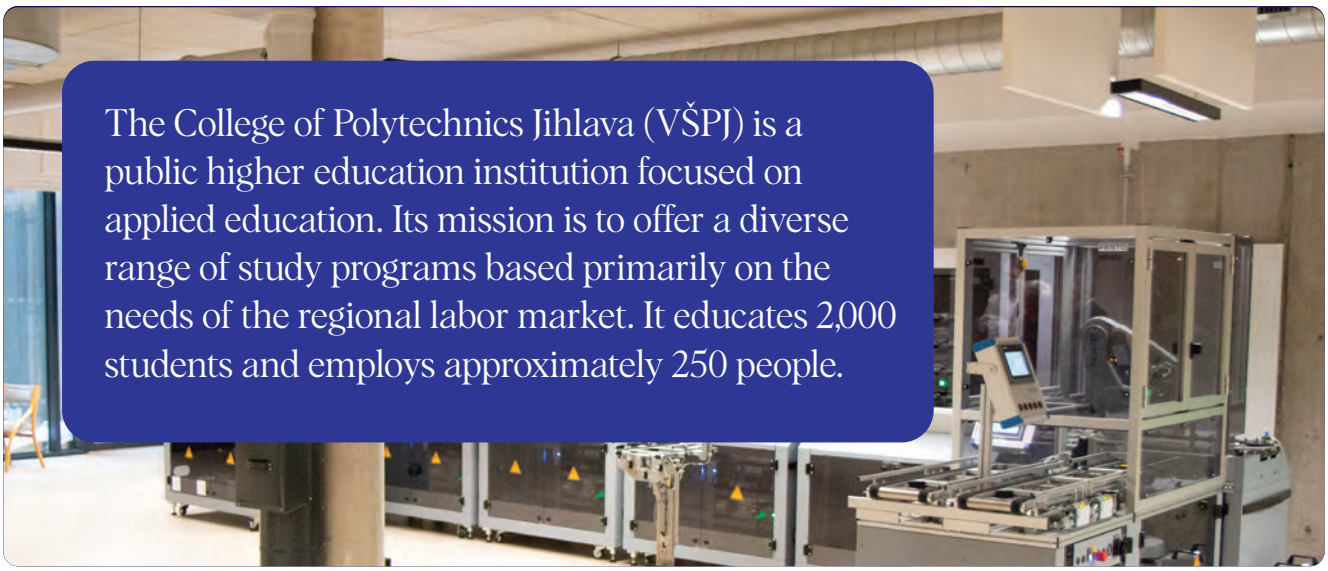
MARTIN SKOUMAL
HEAD OF IT, COLLEGE OF POLYTECHNICS JIHLAVA

Challenge

How to Efficiently Protect 2,000 Students and Hundreds of Devices in the School Building and Dormitories?

"What I appreciate most about Whalebone is the ability to verify security at the DNS level. This allows us to cover all network activity of both employees and students."

MARTIN SKOUMAL
HEAD OF IT, COLLEGE OF POLYTECHNICS JIHLAVA



The College of Polytechnics Jihlava (VŠPJ) is a public higher education institution focused on applied education. Its mission is to offer a diverse range of study programs based primarily on the needs of the regional labor market. It educates 2,000 students and employs approximately 250 people.

Given the number of devices connected to the university network, it is essential to consider how to deploy a security solution as efficiently as possible.

The IT department is responsible for all of the university's IT needs. As they say, they *"keep everything running."*

Therefore, especially when it comes to protecting students, it is not feasible to consider a solution that would need to be installed on individual endpoint devices.

Interest in Whalebone arose from this practical need. *"I found the concept of DNS protection appealing, so we decided to test it out, and it proved to be effective.. What I appreciated most was that it protects users without requiring neither complex configuration, nor a need to inspect data packets,"* explains Martin Skoumal.

Solution

Campus-wide DNS protection in under an hour

"We were intrigued by the approach of filtering out harmful domains at the DNS level, as this is not a feature our firewall offers."

MARTIN SKOUMAL
HEAD OF IT, COLLEGE OF POLYTECHNICS JIHLAVA

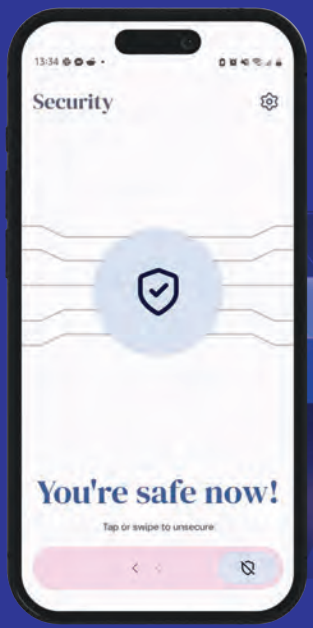
The College of Polytechnics Jihlava needs to protect both its employees and students using the university network.

Students connect to the internet either via the Eduroam network or through wired connections in the dormitories. The highest number of intercepted threats has been recorded in the dormitories.

„Whalebone now protects both the school building and the dormitories. It runs smoothly with Eduroam – it works the same as when used in any other network," explains Martin Skoumal.

"I received instructions for the resolver deployment and, based on that, made Whalebone operational in less than an hour. The configuration was straightforward and went smoothly."

He sees the main value of Whalebone in prevention and in extending protection beyond the capabilities of standard antivirus programs and firewalls, which advanced threats can bypass. *"If antivirus or firewall tools miss the threat, we risk restoring compromised systems or credential theft,"* says Head of IT Martin Skoumal.



Result

Whalebone's threat database catches what the firewall misses, cutting incidents campus–wide

The deployment was quick and straightforward. Protection was introduced gradually, starting with the employee network.

"A few employees encountered malicious sites being blocked. When I spoke with them, they admitted they had probably clicked where they shouldn't have, for example when downloading music. After these initial blocks were put in place, there was a notable decrease in the overall number of incidents among employees.," describes Martin Skoumal, highlighting Whalebone's preventive effect.

The IT team then extended protection to students connected via the Eduroam network as well as through wired connections in the dormitories. There, a significant increase in harmful domains blocked by Whalebone was observed.
And how does the College of Polytechnics Jihlava's IT team actively use Whalebone? *"Once or twice a week, I check the console and mainly address employee–related issues,"* says Martin Skoumal.

Additionally, Whalebone automatically sends threat reports to administrators, allowing them to identify the most serious issues on the network.

CONTENT FILTERING

"We use content filtering related to criminal activities – drugs, weapons, and similar topics, which shows up mainly among students," explains Martin Skoumal. This is a common requirement among educational institutions and other customers who provide network access beyond their employee teams, such as municipal offices, shopping centers, or public institutions.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

A1 · Aero Vodochody · ALD Automotive · emvs Madrid · Bauhaus · Colt CZ Group · European Commission · NEAS · Telefónica · Panasonic

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